Religion as a New Pair of Eyes.

Luke 4:14-21

Intro. A. Fiction, old and new, filled with touching and frightening stories of eyes of one person transplanted to another with strange effects.

1. Eyes of condemned criminal or
2. Eyes of man of God.

B. Forceful and yet in sense portrays what Christ came to do — give new pair of eyes.

1. Did literally as it was written in Isa. 61 of the Messiah.
2. But in deeper sense of which physical but a symbol.

C. He came to enable us to see Him, see others, see selves, see God in a new way.

1. Jn. — Remark to Pharisees at close of healing in Jn. 9.
2. Blind see; those seeing are blind.
3. Irony of Christianity on eye of person is in the eyes — how look upon self, God, world, others.

D. Religion not another institution (Home, school, church), another group, another event, another aspect to be represented, another course in curriculum, but way of viewing all else.

Book is not many ch. Holy as every town but more.

E. Obstacle is not, nor was it for Jesus, irreligion, but religion that was blind to God's love and purpose. Note:

I. Such Religion, Without Eyes, Paralyzes Rather Than Giving Life.

A. Note 3 examples:

1. Carbon. Give to God and neglect parents.
2. Plucking grain and response to David and shewbread.
3. Healing on Sabbath. Sabbath for man.

B. Wrong to squeeze life into a form that crushes it. Rule misunderstood.

II Such Religion, Without Eyes, Sees Good Religion as an Exemption, an Immunity.

A. Taunt to Jesus on cross. If He feels love, God release him.

B. How twisted. Common expression. Must not be living right!

C. Did we never learn of sacrifice and voluntary suffering for others?

III Such Religion, Without Eyes, Sees Religion as a Theory, the Answer to Philosophical Problems.

A. All - Question about Galileans killed by Pilate or 18 killed by fall of Siloam tower. Jesus' answer.

B. Religion not a set of clever answers to "supposed" situations.

C. All. Read for debate between 2 hard headed preachers over whether person killed on way to baptism be saved. Folly!! Point is - Have you obeyed Christ?

Concl -

A. Jesus came to blind those who see, and He has; Love all answers but no answers; see all, yet nothing; go from church to church, from worship to hurt another. criticism

B. Jesus came to give eyes to the blind, and He has, for many have achieved that rare trait - understanding.